

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /086 W
----- 012592

R 130728Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7519

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 2506

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IV, SS, MR, MO, AG

SUBJECT: WESTERN SHAHRA: IVORY COAST POSITION

1. IN COURSE OF CALL ON MFA CHIEF OF CABINET JULIEN KACOU MARCH 12, EMBOFF INQUIRED IVORY COAST POSITION ON WESTERN SAHARA. KACOU, WHO HAD ATTENDED RECENT OAU CM MEETING IN ADDIS ABABA, SAID IVORY COAST AGREED WITH OAU POSITION THAT THE RECOGNITION OF POLISARIO AS A GOVERNMENT IS THE PREROGATIVE OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES AND NOT OF THECM. NOTING THAT A SMALL NUMBER OF AFRICAN STATES HAVE SINCE RECOGNIZED POLISARIO, HE ADDED THAT HE DIDN'T THINK IVORY COAST HAD "ENOUGH INFORMATION" ON THE SITUATION TO TAKE ANY ACTION AT THIS TIME.

2. IN SEPARATE CALL ON ANOTHER MFA OFFICIAL LATER IN DAY, EMBOFF WAS TOLD THAT ALTHOUGH IVORY COAST WAS UNLIKELY TAKE ANY PUBLIC POSITION ON THE ISSUE, THAT ITS PRIVATE SYMPATHIES WERE "AGAINST ANNEXATION OF ONE COUNTRY BY ANOTHER." EMBOFF EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE AT IMPLICATIONS OF THIS IN VIEW OF
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CLOSE LINKS BETWEEN IVORY COAST AND BOTH MAURITANIA AND

MOROCCO. (IN THIS CONNECTION EMBASSY NOTES THAT RECENT MOROCCO NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION WAS ATTENDED BY FONMIN USHER WHO VIRTUALLY NEVER SHOWS UP AT DIPLOMATIC NATIONAL DAY RECEPTIONS. UNUSUALNESS OF USHER'S ATTENDANCE WAS FURTHER UNDERSCORED BY FACT RECEPTION TOOK PLACE ON EVENING OF WIDELY-RUMORED GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE) MFA OFFICIAL REPLIED THAT WHATEVER ITS PRIVATE VIEWS, GOICLIKELY TO MOVE VERY SLOWLY IN TAKING ANY PUBLIC POSITION ON ISSUE OR IN RECOGNIZING POLISARIO.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY INCLINED CONCUR WITH LAST STATEMENT, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW IVORY COAST-MOROCCAN AND MAURITANIAN FRIENDSHIP. SMITH

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To: STATE
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